

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6438**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 1**

**NOTE PREPARED: Jan 31, 2006**

**BILL AMENDED: Jan 26, 2006**

**SUBJECT:** Marion County Government Matters.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Young R Michael

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill contains the following provisions:

*Auditor:* This bill provides that the Marion County Auditor (rather than the Indianapolis City Controller) must record certain information concerning warrants issued by the auditor. It provides that the signature of the Marion County Auditor may not be signed on, imprinted on, or affixed to a warrant for the payment of county or city funds without the approval of the Auditor. It specifies that the Marion County Auditor may take certain actions assigned by law to the Auditor without the approval of the Indianapolis City Controller. It also specifies that the Marion County Auditor is responsible for payroll functions and duties for all city and county departments, offices, and agencies, and the Indianapolis City Controller may not perform these functions and duties, except as requested by the Auditor.

*Elected Officers:* The bill provides that each elected county officer is responsible for establishing the human resources policies and personnel policies that apply to employees of the county officer, and that these policies may be established without the approval of any other person, except for City-County Council approval of compensation of employees.

*Townships:* The bill provides that in Marion County: (1) a township trustee's duties regarding parks and recreation, fences, detrimental weeds, and administration of the Dog Tax and Dog Fund are transferred to the consolidated city; (2) all assets, property rights, equipment, records, personnel, and contracts concerning a trustee's duties regarding parks and recreation, fences, cemeteries, detrimental weeds, and administration of the Dog Tax and Dog Fund are transferred to the consolidated city on January 1, 2007; and (3) that the indebtedness of a township regarding a township trustee's duties regarding parks and recreation, fences,

detrimental weeds, and administration of the Dog Tax and Dog Fund is assumed or defeased by the consolidated city and property taxes imposed by the consolidated city for that indebtedness are exempt from the ad valorem property tax limits.

The bill also reduces a township board in Marion County from seven to five members.

*Safety and Advisory Boards:* The bill establishes in Marion County: (1) the Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Safety Board to determine whether the townships and the consolidated city should enter into interlocal cooperation agreements regarding hiring, training, purchasing, and other matters; and (2) the Fire and Emergency Services Advisory Board to establish educational requirements for firefighters employed by township fire departments and the Indianapolis Fire Department. The bill requires the minimum basic training required for state certification to be conducted for Marion County fire and emergency services personnel at the Emergency Services Education Center in Wayne Township.

*Community Resource Center Transition Board:* The bill creates a Community Resource Center Transition Board to study and make recommendations regarding the joint provision of services and other matters.

(The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Marion County Consolidation Study Commission.)

**Effective Date:** Upon passage; July 1, 2006; January 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:** (Revised)

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) The following provisions may lead to cost savings by removing the duplication of services and increasing administrative efficiencies. Additionally, the bill includes other provisions that will have minor fiscal impacts on the townships, city, and county.

*Transfer of Services between Townships and Consolidated City:* The bill would transfer all responsibilities of administering the Dog Tax from the township assessor to the city controller. The bill also transfers the responsibility of administering the Dog Fund from the township trustee to the city controller. The city controller would likely experience an increase in administrative duties as a result.

In addition to the Dog Tax, the proposal would shift most township services to the city/county level. These services include fence viewing, and park and detrimental plant maintenance. Each of these services – along with all related items including assets, records, and personnel – would be transferred to the most closely corresponding city/county department, office, or agency.

*Township Board:* This provision reduces the number of board members from seven to five. Township board, or township legislative body, members are entitled to a salary. The township legislative body determines salaries for all officers and employees of the township. Reducing the number of board members will reduce related expenditures.

*Debt Assumption:* The bill would assign township debt to the consolidated city for the following: providing and maintaining parks and community centers, administering the Dog Tax and Dog Fund, performing fence duties, and destroying detrimental plants, to the consolidated city. The total 2005 non-fire township debt levy was

\$7.8M.

*Safety Board:* The bill creates the Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Safety Board (Safety Board) in Marion County, which is to consist of the following members: executives of the consolidated city and each township in the county, three emergency medical professionals, and the executives of each excluded city or town that has a fire department and adopts a resolution joining the board.

The Safety Board is required to determine whether all of the units represented by members of the Safety Board should enter into an interlocal cooperation agreement to perform the following functions: purchasing processes; health care, Worker's compensation, liability insurance and payroll services contracts; vehicle maintenance; wellness or fitness programs; emergency medical services billing; fire investigation and inspection; hiring and recruit training processes, and special operations. The board, by a two-thirds majority, may determine additional functions other than those listed may be jointly performed through interlocal agreement.

Each of the units' legislative bodies must pass an ordinance or resolution allowing the agreement. The bill also provides that an ordinance passed by any of the cities' legislative bodies is not subject to veto by its corresponding executive. All units that enter into an interlocal agreement will be responsible for paying a pro rata share of all administrative and other costs related to the agreement.

*Advisory Board:* The bill also creates the Fire and Emergency Services Training Advisory Board (Advisory Board) in Marion County. The Advisory Board includes the fire chiefs or designees of the consolidated city and township fire departments and of excluded cities and towns that join the Advisory Board; a medical doctor of an emergency medical services agency; a firefighter who is a member or officer of a local labor union that represents the consolidated city's fire department; and a firefighter employed by a township. The Advisory Board may adopt recommendations for firefighter standards and education to supplement the minimum basic training education for firefighters. The Advisory Board must then submit the recommendations to the Safety Board for approval.

The bill also requires that all training, after June 30, 2006, must be conducted at the Emergency Services Education Center in Wayne Township, Marion County, and a fire department must reimburse the education center for any training and related costs. Depending on where the departments currently hold their training, they could experience an increase in expenditures. For example, if a department holds their training in-house, the department may not currently pay for lodging, meals, instructors, tuition or other items that could possibly be required by the education center. Also, the costs will depend on the amount of supplemental training required by the Advisory Board to be held at the education center.

(Revised) *Community Resource Center Transition Board:* The Community Resource Center Transition Board (Board) is established to conduct field studies and audits to determine how best to serve constituents throughout the county after consolidation, joint performance, or transfer of functions; identify city and township services that may be provided jointly; make recommendations concerning the number and location of community resource centers; identify services provided by township trustees to locate in community resource centers; and develop a community education plan.

The Board will consist of 14 members and each member who is not an employee of the state or consolidated city is entitled to a salary per diem. The Board expires on December 31, 2008, but may be extended by City-County Council resolution.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** (Revised) *Maximum Levy Shifting Between Taxing Units* - For taxes paid in 2007, this bill would shift maximum levy authority from the townships to the consolidated city in the amount of the townships' 2006 levies for Dog Tax administration, fence viewing, and park and detrimental plant maintenance. The overall total maximum levies for the consolidated city and the townships will not change under this provision.

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Marion County; City of Indianapolis.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Karen Firestone, 317-234-2106.